



# GATEWAY



January-February 2023 - - Vol. LVIII No. 1



*Sangha members received a Year-end appreciation gift, called Oseibo, from our Temple for their hard work throughout the year.*

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Yul Ōtani

Overseas District Abbot, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

To our fellow seekers in the overseas districts, I send my warmest wish for a Happy New Year. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support you continue to give to our propagation efforts in the districts.

Upon reflection of what is happening throughout the world, we continue to see the conflicts and confrontations such as the continuance of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Because of such tragedies, so many precious lives have been lost, and the people continue to live in the midst of fear and sorrow. It is heart-wrenching to see the suffering of the people whom we cannot help. However, we wish that peace and tranquility will be restored every-



where as soon as possible.

At our mother temple in Kyoto, the 850th Celebration of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anni-

versary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū will be held this Spring.

As you have heard, the theme of the gathering is "Namu Amida Butsu—To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings." It embodies our wish that each of us will discover the preciousness of having been born as human beings and find true joy in living through encountering the teaching of the nenbutsu and its spirit in the observance of this Celebration.

The world today is faced with unprecedented crises and dismal moods of uncertainty. However, we are at a point where it is even more crucial for us to renew our appreciation of the preciousness of our lives

*Please see ODA, con't on page 6*



## T H E G A T E W A Y

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

**Bishop Wataru Kigoshi**  
**Chief Administrator, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)**

To everyone in our overseas districts, I wish to extend my New Year's greetings for the year of 2023. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

As of now, the positive cases of Covid-19 have been gradually decreasing and most activities seem to be returning to the pre-pandemic level worldwide. I have also heard that our members in the overseas districts have started to gather together again at your temples for Sunday services. At the same time, though, I heard that you are continuing to take precautions against infections, such as livestreaming services for those who are vulnerable and also continuing to wear masks. I am so happy to hear the good news. Despite the trend towards normal, we need to continue to be careful because of



such incidents as the sudden increase in the number of positive cases last summer in Japan. I hope that all of you overseas keep your guard up and continue to take care of your health.

Although the outlook for the future is still uncertain, we will be observing the 850th Celebration of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th

Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū this Spring. Our hope is that this Celebration will become an important opportunity for each of us to think about what the establishment of Jōdo Shinshū means to us. It is also the opportunity to listen to the teaching of the nenbutsu even more deeply. We are encouraged to reflect upon how we are receiving the Dharma in our daily lives and renew our commitment to live our lives as nenbutsu followers.

Today's world continues to be in a state of disorder. We are faced with the unrelenting spread of Covid-19 and the conflicts among nations around the world such as the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine where so many precious lives continue to be lost.

As Abbot Ōtani stated in his pledge at last year's Hōonkō service,

*Please see SOCHO, con't on page 6*

## Greetings From Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

I wish the members and friends of the West Covina Buddhist Temple a Happy New Year. As we begin the year 2023, Bill and I hope the New Year will bring you and your family joy and meaningful moments.

After three years, it is hard to believe that we are still dealing with COVID-19, the novel virus that has caused a worldwide pandemic and brought an unforeseen change in our lives. As of this writing, we are hearing of yet another increase of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. I hope you and your family members are staying safe and healthy.

The year 2022 continued to be another challenging year. Yet, with our members' dedication and positive spirit, the temple was able to sustain its significant role as the place

to listen to the teachings. The temple re-opened in March, and currently, all services are held in a hybrid format. I am delighted to announce that we had a successful Golf Tournament and Kiku Crafts and Food Fair. We are slowly moving steadily forward.

Some may wish to return to the life we enjoyed pre-COVID, but there is no need to go back into the "past." Reflecting on these past years with COVID-19, they allowed us to reflect on the many things we have taken for granted. I am sure we all felt a profound sense of gratitude that arose within us. It has given us the strength to move forward and make our lives positive and meaningful. I witnessed an eagerness to listen to the teachings, which has been the foundation of our Sangha members and has con-

tinuously grown, in spite of the many inconveniences. Your enthusiasm encouraged our temple to find a way to share the teachings and lead us to a fulfilling future.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Temple President, Mr. Johnny Martinez, members of the Board of Directors, and all our members for their generous support and guidance. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and encouragement enabled me to fulfill my duties as a minister. Many thanks to the members of each Toban group. Since the temple started the hybrid format for services at the temple, they shouldered additional responsibilities for taking care of Zoom. I would also like to thank

*Please see MIYOSHI, con't on pg. 6*





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## T E M P L E N E W S

### Sunday Services

All Sunday Services are now hybrid with both in-person and Zoom participation. In-person participants must submit proof of vaccination to the Community Center or a negative Covid-19 test 72 hours prior to Service. A temperature check will also be given when entering the Social Hall. If you're not quite ready for social contact just look for an email from Rev. Miyoshi or Rev. Fred inviting you to the services with the Zoom meeting ID and password. Which ever way you decide, please join us because it's always a pleasure to see all of your familiar faces!

### Discussion Class

The weekly discussion class will be every Thursday at 10 am via Zoom. There is a different topic of discussion each week and a lively dialogue with a growing number of participants. Look for the email invitation with meeting ID and password or contact Rev. Miyoshi for the information.

### Study Class

A virtual evening Study Class is held every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm and we invite those who are unable to attend the Thursday morning Discussion Class to join us. The Study Classes will focus on the history and teaching of Jodo Shinshu. If you are interested in purchasing "The Teaching of Jodo Shinshu and the History of the Honganji Community" book which will be used as reference, or to get an email invitation, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.

### New Year's Day Service

A special hybrid service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at 11:00 am. Rev. Miyoshi will prepare a special New Year's treat so please

let her know if you are planning to attend in-person.

### Eitaikyo & General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 22 at 10 a.m. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale so please order your Eitaikyo bentos by contacting Lee Ezaki. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento to take home.

### WCBT Seminar

WCBT will again have a virtual seminar on February 11, 2023 with Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, former minister of San Diego Buddhist Temple and now retired. For more information, please see the flyer on page 7.

### Pet Memorial Service

A special hybrid service will be held on February 26 at 10:00 a.m. to remember our animal friends. Everyone who has lost a pet is invited to pay tribute to them on this special day. We invite anyone who has lost a pet recently to share pictures and/or stories of them.



### JANUARY BIRTHDAY

Tami Kitaura, Ty Tamo Le, Tanya Kato, Casey Hansen, Kevin Maekawa, Carol Oshima, Kathy Oshima, Neil Kato, Cora Ormseth, Matthew Ormseth, Kristen Nakano, Hidemi Ena, Jesse Sakaue, Aya Kamimura, Aiko Yep, Don Frack, Maya Hendrickson, Stephanie Whang, Brian Yanase, Kelly Nakawatase,

### GATEWAY Staff

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*West Covina Buddhist Temple Mission Statement:*

In the spirit of universal brotherhood, West Covina Buddhist Temple provides the opportunity for all to listen to and share the Teachings of the Buddha in order that we may awaken to our true selves, living our lives fully and dynamically.

*The Temple's mailing address is:*

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
P. O. Box 1616  
West Covina, CA 91793  
(626) 689-1040

*Website:* [www.livingdharma.org](http://www.livingdharma.org)

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Andrew Kobayashi, Ron Yamasaki, Gavin Shams, Matthew Musselwhite, Ryan Musselwhite, Maebyn Yoburn, Eddie Nakasone, Lisa Nakasone, Mayson Godoy, Angelina Wu, George Wu

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

Sumiye Arnheim, Edith Ariza, Yoshitaka Ena, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosh, Hisako Koga, Luke Takeshi Shimomura, Evan Okamura, Joanie Martinez, Deanna Ormseth, Sophia Saucedo, Jose Godoy, Kiyoko Nakakihara, Matthew Woo, Glenn Tomita, Ryan Shimomura, Dan Elmatari, Judy Tawatari, Connie Hamachi, Amanda Jean Underwood, Vicky Miyashiro, Kara Miyashiro



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## Greetings to our West Covina Sangha

### DHARMA SCHOOL

Happy 2023!

On November 27 our temple honored the children who turned 3, 5, or 7 years old during 2022.

Ty Tamo Le (3 years old), Max Yasuo Shimomura (7 years old), and Jordan Kiyomi Jucksch (7 years old) were recognized as part of this year's Shichi-Go-San. During the service a short story called Zen Happiness by Jon J. Muth was read. A quote from the book is "What we do now is what matters most."

December 4 was our observance of Bodhi Day—the day Siddhartha was awakened. A short biography of Prince Siddhartha called The Day The Buddha Woke Up by Andrea Mitchell was read to the children and adults. The story followed Siddhartha's life from his birth to his awakening under the Bodhi Tree. The Dharma School staff hopes you enjoyed both books!

According to Asian astrology, 2023 is the year of the Rabbit. People born in this year are said to be calm, decisive, and trustworthy friends. Do you have anyone in your family who was born in the year of the Rabbit? They may have been born in 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, or 2011. Why don't you ask your family members if they were born in one of those years?

Have a wonderful "Hoppy" New Year!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen



### Johnny Martinez, President

Dear Members and Friends,

Hello and Happy New Year to everyone. This past year had its painful and positive moments, leaving us with many memories and lessons that we will carry into the next year.

As the new year begins, we are given the opportunity to start again. During the past year some of our members have suffered losses due to death or illnesses, while others experienced new beginnings with weddings or births. During the past year the news has focused so much on our differences and our being right, that we have neglected to regard and respect our common humanity. This is where the temple gives us opportunities to self-reflect. None of us are perfect and we are all ongoing works of beings living in the Dharma; we are accepted just the way we are.

Life continues to send us challenges and reminders of how ill-prepared we truly are, whether it is a case of politics, viruses, earthquakes or tornadoes. Yet even when these types of catastrophes occur, they bring out our best in what Abraham Lincoln described as the better angels of our nature, or what we call compassion. When I experience compassion, gratitude naturally follows, which encourages me to open up and help others. I am grateful for a temple and sangha where I can find refuge, even in the darkest of days. A place where respect, sympathy, warmth, laughter and support are freely given without hesitation. I can listen to the Dharma as I continue to experience, learn, and encounter meaning in my life. I am so grateful to all of you who have given me the most precious of gifts, friendship and acceptance.

Thank you to Rev. Miyoshi and all of the sangha members who have been supportive throughout the year. Please remain safe. I look forward with gratitude and anticipation for the New Year filled with opportunities.

With Gassho,  
Johnny Martinez



### Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Treasurer

Happy Year of the Rabbit!

Wishing everyone an energetic and healthy New Year!

When we first returned to in person service, I didn't realize how much I missed hearing all our voices chanting Shoshinge. We were all out of practice but with time all the voices eventually came together in rhythm with each other. It was very moving to me—though we are all different, during this moment we were all joined together as one.

I'd like to thank all the dedicated Sangha members and friends who continue to



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS

**Dr. Roy Takemura**

Any stage or theatrical production requires an efficient behind the scene team. This includes but not limited to back-stage crews in charge of costume changes, backdrop and prop changes to lighting and sound technicians.

Throughout 2022, Sunday services continued in a hybrid format: in person attendance and via Zoom. In addition, the traditional otoki (take home only) was provided after Ohigan, Obon/Hatsubon and Hoonko services. Our Sunday services, like a theatrical production, requires an efficient behind the scene team, "Team Toban." Each Sunday "Team Toban" prepares the altar, aligns the chairs for sangha members in attendance and setup for the Zoom presentation.

On behalf of the Toban chairs (Joy Kitaura/Hiroko Takemoto - A; Lee Ezaki - B; Dick Koga - C) a sincere thank you to all "Team Toban" members who assisted with all the behind the scene tasks each Sunday. And, as we hop, hop, hop into 2023, a very Happy and Healthy New Year to all our sangha members, family and friends!



## TOBAN LIST

Tobans are responsible for providing obuppan/flowers and Zoom for all services and a chairperson for major and Shotuki services

### **Toban A (Joy Kitaura/Hiroko Takemoto) (July–September)**

Akune, Denise  
Ariza, Edith  
Fujimoto, Glen  
Hamachi, Wesley & Connie  
Kagawa, Richard & Ruby  
Kitaura, Joy  
Maekawa, Raymond & Nancy  
Nakatani, Glenn & Jean  
Nishihara, Lillian  
Sato, Ken & Pat  
Shirota, Barbara  
Takahashi, Miyo  
Takemoto, Takashi & Hiroko  
Takemura, Roy & Judy  
Takemura, Vicki  
Teragawa, David & Cheryl  
Underwood, Phillip  
Yamasaki, Ron

### **Toban B (Lee Ezaki) (January–March, October–December)**

Correa, Gilbert  
Chen, Mei Ling  
Earley, Jerry & Jane  
Ezaki, Lee & Karen  
Harrison, Michelle  
Ikehara–Nelson, Reiko  
Kato, Tanya  
Kovacs, Yukiko  
Mayeda, Haruko  
Nakatani, Mark  
Rodriguez, Oscar

*\*If you do not see your name here and would like to join one of our Tobans, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.*

### **Toban C (Dick Koga) (April–June)**

Godoy, Jose & Lynette  
Hansen, Claire  
Haraguchi, Richard & Claudia  
Kato, Ted  
Koga, Dick & Hisako  
Kovacs, Yukiko  
Kowalski, Kurt  
Martinez, Johnny & Joanie  
Ogino, Leslie  
Ormseth, Tor & Diana  
Oshita, Mitsuru & Mitsu  
Underwood, Steve & Denise  
Wexler, Alan & Emi  
Whang, Bruce  
Yamashita, Kay

## THANK YOU!





# T H E G A T H E W A Y

*ODA, con't from pg. 1*

and our deep interconnectedness with each other.

In the gatha, *Shinshū Shūka*, the third verse begins with the phrase, "Just as there are no boundaries between the oceans of the world." As stated in this gatha, I sincerely hope that the Celebration will be an opportunity for all of us to listen to the teaching of the nenbutsu that Shinran Shōnin clarified and appreciate the meaning of having been born as human beings together with our fellow seekers around the globe.

I have heard that each overseas district is planning their group tours to participate in the Celebration. Since each of you are essential in establishing and maintaining the links of the Dharma, please consider participating in the event with your family and friends. I sincerely look forward to seeing you all in person again at our mother temple in Kyoto.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the Celebration in person, the services and Dharma talks are planned to be livestreamed on the internet. Therefore, it is our sincerest hope that all of you will share this event with your family and friends at your temple or at your homes, so that everyone can be a part of this historical occasion together with us.

In closing, I ask for your continued support as we begin the New Year.

*SOCHO, con't from pg. 2*

we humans who are fundamentally unenlightened find that it is impossible for us to reflect upon our true selves through our own capabilities. We can receive insight into the truth of our existence only through encountering the teaching of the nenbutsu which is embodied in "Namu Amida Butsu," the Name of the Buddha. Because we are living in such an age of confusion, it is my deepest wish that this teaching of truth be

shared with all people around the world.

The main theme for the 2023 Celebration is "Namu Amida Butsu—To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings." I sincerely look forward to the Celebration with a hope that it will become a precious opportunity for each of us to reflect upon how we receive the spirit of "Namu Amida Butsu" while contemplating this theme together with all of our fellow seekers from around the globe.

In conclusion, I ask for your continued support as we begin the New Year.

*IKEHARA, con't from pg. 4*

come together when needed to support the Temple.

This year we were able to hold the Golf Tournament, Kiku Craft Fair and a small and thoroughly joyous Obon Odori. All your time and energy and friendship are greatly appreciated.

I'm looking forward to "seeing" everyone.

Gassho

Reiko Ikehara-Nelson

*MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 2*

Rev. Frederick Brenion for leading a discussion class once a month and sending the temple events information to our members via email.

Many welcoming and unwelcoming things await us in the year 2023. No matter what happens, I am confident the power of our Sangha which will transform the difficult times into worthwhile experiences, will give us the inspiration to listen to the teachings.

Gassho



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Happy shopping!



# T H E G A T E W A Y

W e s t C o v i n a B u d d h i s t T e m p l e P r e s e n t s

## The 2023 Online Seminar: “Gratitude – The Shin Path of Waking Up”

Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi

**Date: Saturday, February 11, 2023**

**Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm (PST)**

(No Registration Fee)

**Pre-register by Google Form**

(<https://forms.gle/QiBBpgzvha2PiTWD9>) to  
be added to the Zoom meeting invitation  
for the seminar.

More Info: [revnobuko@gmail.com](mailto:revnobuko@gmail.com) (Rev. Miyoshi) or  
[pishsato@gmail.com](mailto:pishsato@gmail.com) (Pat Sato)



### ◆ *About the Seminar*

Shin Buddhism has been in America for over 120 years. Yet, compared with other sects of Buddhism in America, we have not attracted many from outside the Nikkei community. We will examine some causes of this, such as the difficulty of relating traditional words to our contemporary lives. We will also present a practice of daily gratitude that can lead to a deep appreciation of the Nembutsu.

### ◆ *About the Lecturer*

Former private practice dentist in San Jose (UCSF Dental School).  
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin – Board President for 2 years.

Santa Clara Co. Juvenile Hall – Buddhist Chaplain for 7 years.

Shin Buddhist Retreats – originated and conducted annually in California, Washington, and Hawaii since 1998.

MATP, master's degree from Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, CA.

MBS, Master of Buddhist Study from Institute of Buddhist Studies of Berkeley, CA.

Resident minister of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego for 8 years. Recently retired.

Currently teaching classes for minister's assistants for BCA & Hawaii Kyodan.

Dharma Forward Campaign: heading the Minister's Support Pillar.

Developing programs for BCA Propagation & Membership Committee for temples to attract new members.

### Program: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

1:00-1:10	Welcome/Intro
1:10-2:10	Lecture
2:10-2:20	Break
2:20-2:55	Q&A/Discussion
2:55-3:00	Closing

.....  
\*If you wish to make a donation, The Living Dharma website now has a link

(<https://livingdharma.org/index.php/donations/>) for donations and membership dues. You can use PayPal, credit and debit cards to make donations to the temple with a few simple clicks. Checks are still and always accepted as well for the traditionalist. Please make your check payable to WEST COVINA HH BUDDHIST TEMPLE, and mail to P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793. We truly appreciate your generous support.



# T H E G A T E W A Y







# T H E G A T E W A Y

(「司教」11頁からの続き)

念願しております。

また、各開教区では慶讃法要の団体参拝も計画されているとかがっております。開教区のご門徒一同におかれましても、この大切な仏縁を紡いでいくお一人として、なにとぞご家族、お友達をお誘いあわせのうえ、ご参加くださいますようお願い申し上げます。

来春の京都で皆様のご参拝をお待ちしております。

なお、日本にお越しになれない方々も多くおられると思いますが、インターネットにて法要や法話の様子ライブ配信が予定されていますので、是非、自宅や寺院でご視聴頂き、共にそのご縁にあって頂きたいと切に念じあげます。

本年もどうぞよろしく願いいたします。



(「総長」11頁からの続き)

たが、私たちは自らを根本から疑うことのできない「愚かさ」を持っている存在であり、お念仏のみ教え、「南無阿弥陀仏」という仏の御名によって自身が照らされてはじめてその大切な事実気づくことができるのです。このような時代だからこそ、この尊い教えが全世界に届いてほしいと強く願うばかりです。

このたびの慶讃法要のテーマである「南無阿弥陀仏 人と生まれたことの意味をたずねていこう」という願いのもと、あらためて私たち一人ひとりが南無阿弥陀仏をどのようにいただいていくか、世界中の御同朋と共に確かめていく大切な勝縁をいただけることを心より楽しみにしております。

本年も、どうぞ宜しく願いいたします。

(「見義」11頁からの続き)

ます。引き続き感染対策を行いながらくれぐれもお気をつけてお過ごしください。

お寺は昨年の三月にお寺での日曜礼拝を再開することができました。現在はオンラインと対面のハイブリッド形式で法要をお勤めしています。また昨年はゴルフトーナメントと菊クラフトフェアのファンドレイジングを行うことができました。少しずつではありますが確実に前進を続けていることをとても嬉しく思います。

この三年間を振り返った時、困難な年であったことは間違いありません。けれども同時にこの三年間は目覚めの時間であった、ということも確かに言えるのではないのでしょうか。日常生活が一変した厳しい状況の中で、私たちは当たり前だと思っていたことがどれほど有り難いことであったのか、ということに改めて気づくことができました。深い感謝の気持ちというのは、物事が思い通りになったから生じるものではなく、すでに賜っていることの広さと深さに目が開かれた時にこの身から湧き上がってくるものだ、ということをお教えされました。そしてその感謝の気持ちは今置かれている状況の中で私たちがしっかりと歩み続ける強さとなっているのを感じます。僧伽のメンバーの聞法に対する深い情熱は、寺院が門戸を閉ざしてから衰えるどころか、ますます強くなったことを肌で感じました。それはコロナ以前の過去を懐かしみ、今をただやり過ごすのではなく、コロナによって開かれた目で改めて自らや社会を見直し、そこから学んだこととともに前進していく未来への力強い歩みです。開教使として僧伽のその熱意に背中を押されながら進んできた年月であったと感じています。

(「見義」10頁に続く)

**Online Donations**  
The Living Dharma website now has a link (<https://livingdharma.org/index.php/donations/>) for donations and membership dues. You can use PayPal, credit and debit cards to make donations to the temple with a few simple clicks. Checks are still and always accepted as well for the traditionalist.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

(「見義」9頁からの続き)

最後になりましたが、旧年中はマルティネス・ジョン理事長をはじめ理事会の皆さまには多大なお力添えとご指導を賜りました。常に信頼し支え続けてくださった皆さまのおかげで僧侶としての勤めを果たすことができました。この場をお借りして深く感謝申し上げます。また寺院での法要が再開されて以降、各当番の方々には従来の日曜礼拝の準備や後片付けに加え、感染対策、そして新たにZoomの管理もお願いすることになりました。大きな負担をおかけしていますが皆さんが積極的に取り組んでくださるおかげで、種々の事情でお寺に足を運ぶことのできない方とお寺でお参りされている方との交流の場が開かれました。心からお礼を申し上げます。またブレニオン・フレデリック開教係にもお礼申し上げます。昨年より月一度ディスカッションのクラスを担当してくださっています。また引き続きオンラインでの法要や学習会の案内を毎週メンバーの方にメールでお知らせくださり、お寺とメンバーの橋渡しを担ってくださっています。

2023年も様々なことの起こる一年となることでしょう。どのような年となろうとも、共に念仏の教えに学ぶ仲間がいるという事実は変わりません。そしてその事実がきっと私たちを励まし前に進ませる力となってくれるのだらうと感じています。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

合掌



## New Year's Greetings from the Gateway Staff

The WCBT Gateway staff wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the Sangha for their support during the past year.

It is our hope that together we will continue to listen to and share the teachings of the Nenbutsu with all our readers and fellow sangha members through our newsletter.



Rev. Murakami from Nishi Betsuin spoke at our Ho-on-ko Service on November 20, 2022.

Quote of the Month  
In the New Year,  
never forget to  
thank to your past years  
because they enabled you  
to reach today!  
Without the stairs  
of the past,  
you cannot arrive  
at the future!"  
- Mehmet Murat ildan





## T H E G A T E W A Y

## 年頭の挨拶 開教司教 大谷 裕

海外在住の全ての同朋の皆さまに、新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

平素は、大谷派の開教活動にご尽力たまわっておりますこと、厚く御礼申し上げます。

世界を見渡せば、ロシア連邦によるウクライナへの軍事的侵攻をはじめ、各地での紛争や対立によって、尊い命が犠牲になり、今なお、恐怖と悲しみの中で過ごす多くの人々がおられることを思うとき、一日も早く平穏な日常が取り戻されることを願うばかりです。

さて、そのような中、いよいよ今春は「宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要」をお迎えいたします。

このたびの慶讃法要のテーマ「南無阿弥陀仏 人と生まれたことの意味をたずねていこう」には、私たち一人ひとりがお念仏の教え、はたらきに出会い、人として生まれてきたことの尊さに目覚め、生きることを心から喜ぶことのできるものとなってほしいという大切な願いが込められております。

現代のように世界中が未曾有の状況に直面し、陰鬱とした社会状況の中であるからこそ、私たちはあらためて「いのち」の尊さに気づかされ、互いの「いのち」が繋がることの有難さに思いを巡らせなければならないのではないのでしょうか。

真宗宗歌に「海の内外のへだてなく」とあるとおり、今回の法要が親鸞聖人が顕かにされた本願念仏のみ教えをとおして、世界中の御同朋と共に「人と生まれた意味」を確かめていく大切な場となることを切に

(「司教」9頁に続く)

## 年頭の挨拶 宗務総長 木越 渉

2023年の年頭にあたり、開教区の皆さまにご挨拶を申し上げます。

皆さまにおかれましては、平素より各開教区での活動にご尽力いただいておりますこと厚く御礼申し上げます。

さて、現在は新型コロナウイルス感染症の感染者数も減少傾向にあり、世界的に人の往来がコロナ禍以前に戻りつつあるように感じます。各開教区におかれましても、インターネット配信を併用するなど、十分に対策はとりながら以前のように御同朋が一同に会して法要がお勤めできるようになったとお聞きし大変うれしく思っております。しかしながら、日本でも昨年夏に感染者が爆発的に増加した事例もございますので、開教区の皆様におかれましても、引き続きお体に気をつけてお過ごしください。

そのような先行きが不透明な時勢ではございますが、いよいよ今春は宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年立教開宗800年慶讃法要をお迎えいたします。この慶讃法要は私たち一人ひとりが自らにとっての立教開宗の意味をたずね、本願念仏の教えをいただき、自らの聞法生活を問い直し、あらためて念仏申す歩みを確かめていく大切な機縁となることを願いとしております。

現在の社会は新型コロナウイルス感染症の蔓延やロシア連邦のウクライナへの軍事進攻をはじめ、世界各国で紛争や対立により尊い命が失われているように混迷の一途をたどっています。

2022年御正忌報恩講でご門首が述べられた表白にもございまし

(「総長」9頁に続く)

## 新年のご挨拶 見義信香

謹んで新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

新型コロナウイルスの世界的流行によって私たちの生活が一変してから三年が経とうとしています。これほど長くこの状況が続くとは誰が予想したことでしょう。感染者の数が再び増加しているという報道も聞き

(「見義」9頁に続く)

## お寺ニュース

### 修正会法要

修正会法要は2023年1月1日(日)午前11時より対面とオンラインのハイブリッド形式にてお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてのお参りにぜひお参りください。

### 永代経法要・教団総会

2023年永代経法要は1月22日(日)午前10時より対面とオンラインのハイブリッド形式にてお勤めします。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。ぜひご参加ください。

### 法話会

新年1月の法話会は1月5日(木)にお勤めします。また2月の法話会は2月2日(木)です。時間はいずれも午前10時、お寺でお勤めいたします。皆さまのご参拝をお待ちしております。

### お寺オンラインセミナー

2023年のオンラインセミナーが2月11日(土)午後1時から3時に開催されます。詳細は7ページの案内をご参照ください。



East San Gabriel Valley  
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
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# GATEWAY

January - February 2023 - - Vol. LVIII No. 1

## January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service (hybrid)
- 5 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 5 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 8 10:00 am Shotsuki Service (hybrid)
- 10 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 12 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)
- 19 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 22 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting (hybrid)
- 24 6:00 pm Study Class (online)
- 26 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)

## February

- 2 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 2 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 5 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)
- 7 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 9 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)

## 2023年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 5日 午前10時 法話会
- 8日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 10日 午後7時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 15日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)
- 22日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会 (ハイブリッド)
- 29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)

## 2月行事予定

- 2日 午前10時 法話会
- 5日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)
- 7日 午後6時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 11日 午後1-3時 オンラインセミナー
- 12日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)

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念仏を申す者も、念仏を申さない者も、  
念仏者から見れば、あらゆる人が同朋  
となるのです。

安富信哉